PANDOSTO.

THE TRIVMPH OF TIME.

VVherein is discouered by a pleasant Historie, that although by the meanes of sinister FORTVNE, TRVTH may be concealed, yet by TIME, in spight of FORTVNE, it is manifestly reuealed.

Pleasant for Age to auoid drowsie thoughts Profitable for Youth, to eschew other wanton Pastimes: And bringing to both a desired Content.

Temporis filia Veritas.

By ROBERT GREENE, Master of Arts in *Cambridge*.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit vtile dulci.

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BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA

THE HISTORIE OF *DORASTVS* AND *FAWNIA.*

AMongſt all the paſſions wherewith humane minds are perplexed, there is none that ſo galleth with reſtleſſe deſpight, as that infectious ſore of Iealouſie: For all other griefes are either to be appeaſed with ſenſible perſwaſion, to be cured with wholeſome counſell, to be relieued in want, or by tract of time to be worne out. Iealouſie onely excepted, which is fanced with ſuſpitious doubts, & pinching miſtruſt, that who ſo ſeeks by friendly counſel to raze out this hellith paſſion, it forthwith ſuſpecteth that he giueth this aduice to couer his owne guiltineſſe. Yea, who ſo is pinched with this reſtleſſe torment, doubteth all, diſtruſteth himſelfe, is alwayes frozen with feare, & fired with ſuſpition, hauing that wherin conſiſteth all his ioy, to be the breeder of his miſery. Yea, it is ſuch an heauy enemie to that heauy eſtate of matrimony, ſowing betweene the maried couples ſuch deadly ſeeds of ſecret hatred, as lone being once raſed out by ſpightfull diſtruſt, there oft enſueth bloody reuenge, as this enſuing hiſtory manifeſtly proueth wherin pandaſto (furiouſly incenſed by a cauſleſſe iealouſie) procured the death of his moſt louing & loyall wife, & his owne endleſſe ſorrow & miſery.

IN the Countrey of Bohemia, there raigned a King called Pandaſto, whoſe fortunate ſucceſſe in warres againſt his Foes, and bountifull courteſie towards his Friendes in Peace made him to be greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandoſto had to wife a Lady called Bellaria by birth royall, learned by education faire by nature, by vertues famous: ſo that it was hard to iudge, whether her beauty, fortune, or ver-

tue, haue the greatest commendations. These two linked toge-
ther in perfect loue, led their liues with such fortunate content,
that their subiects greatly reioyced to see their quiet disposition.
They had not bin married long, but fortune (willing to increase
their hapines) lent them a Sonne, so adorned with the gifts
of Nature, as the perfection of the child greatly augmented
the loue of the Parents, and the ioy of their Commons: in so
much that the Bohemians, to shew their inward ioyes by out-
ward actions, made Bone-fires and Triumphes throwout all
the Kingdome, appoynting Iusts and Turneyes, for the honor
of their young Prince: whether resorted not onely his Nobles,
but also diuers Kinges and Princes which were his Neigh-
bours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto,
and to win fame and glory by their prowesse & valour. Pandosto,
whose mind was fraught with Princely liberality, entertained
the Kings, Princes, and Noblemen, with such submisse courte-
sie, and magnificall bounty, that they all saw how willing he
was to gratifie their good wils, making a generall Feast of all
his Subiects, which continued by the space of Twenty dayes,
all which time the Iusts and Tourneys were kept, to the great
content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This so-
lemne Triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their
leaue of Pandosto and Bellaria, the young Son (who was called
Garinter) was nursed vp in the House, to the great ioy and con-
tent of the Parents. Fortune enuious of such happie successe,
willing to shew some sign of her inconstancy, turned her wheele
and darkened their bright Sunne of prosperity, with the mistie
Cloudes of mishap and misery. For so it happened, that Egistus
king of Sicilia, who in his youth had bene brought vp with Pan-
dosto, desirous to shew, that neither tract of time, or distance of
place could diminish their former friendship, prouided a Nauy
of ships, & sayled in to Bohemia, to visit his old friend and com-
panion: who hearing of his arriuall, went himselfe in person, &
his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lords and
Ladies, to meet Egistus, & espying him, alighted from his Horse,
embraced him very louingly, protesting, that nothing in the
world could haue happened more acceptable to him then his com-
ming, wishing his wife to welcome his old friend and acquain-

tance

tance; who (to ſhew how ſhe liked him whom her husband loued) entertayned him with ſuch familiar courteſie, as Egiſtus perceiued himſelfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus ſaluted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on Horſe-backe, and rode toward the Citty, deuiſing and recounting, how being children, they had paſſed their youth in friendlie paſtimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egiſtus was receiued with triumphs and ſhewes, in ſuch ſort, that hee marueled how on ſo ſmall a warning they could make ſuch preparation. Paſſing the Stræts thus with ſuch rare ſights, they rode on to the Palace: where Pandoſto entertained Egiſtus and his Sicilians with ſuch banquetting & ſumptuous chære, ſo royally, as they had all cauſe to commend his Princely liberality: yea, the very baſeſt Slaue that was knowne to come from Sicilia, was vſed wieh ſuch courteſie, that Egiſtus might eaſilie perceiue, how both he & his were honoured for his friends ſake. Bellaria (who in her time was the Flowre of Courteſie) willing to ſhew how vnfainedly ſhe loued her husband, by his friends entertainment, vſed him likewiſe ſo familiarly, that her countenance bewrayed how her heart was affected toward him: oftentimes comming herſelfe into his Bed-chamber, to ſee that nothing ſhould bee amiſſe to diſlike him. This honeſt familiarity increaſed daylie more and more betwirt them: for Bellaria noting in Egiſtus a Princely and bountifull mind, adorned with ſundry & excellent qualities, & Egiſtus finding in her a vertuous & courteous diſpoſition, there grew ſuch a ſecret vniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: inſomuch that when Pandoſto was buſied with ſuch vrgent affaires, that he could not be preſent with his friend Egiſtus, Bellaria would walke with him in the Garden, & there they two in priuate pleaſant deuices, would paſſe away their time to both their contents. This cuſtome ſtill continuing betwirt them, a certayne melancholy paſſion entring the mind of Pandoſto, droue him into ſundry and doubtfull thoughts. Firſt, he called to mind the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comlineſſe and bravery of his friend Egiſtus, thinking that loue was aboue all Lawes, & therefore to be ſtayed with no law, that it was hard to put fire & flare together without burning, that their open pleaſures might breed

his

displeaſures. He conſidered with himſelfe that Egiſtus was a man, and muſt needs loue: that his wife was a woman, and therfore ſubiect to loue: and that where fancy forced, friendſhip was of no force. Theſe & ſuchlike doubtful thoughts a long time ſmothering in his ſtomacke, began at laſt to kindle in his minde a ſecret miſtruſt, which, increaſed by ſuſpition, grew at laſt to flaming iealouſie, that ſo tormented him, as he could take no reſt. He then began to meaſure all their actions, and miſconſtrue of their too priuate familaritie, iudging that it was not for honeſt affection, but for diſordinate fancie: ſo as he began to watch them more narrowly, to ſee if he could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtfull ſuſpition. While thus he noted her lookes & geſtures, and ſuſpected their thoughts and meanings, thay two ſilly Soules, who doubted nothing of this his trecherous intent, frequented daily each others companie: which drane him into ſuch a franticke paſſion, that he began to beare a ſecret hate to Egiſtus, & a louring countinance to Bellaria: who marueilling at ſuch vnaccuſtomed frowres, began to caſt beyond the Moone, and to enter into a thouſand ſundry thoughts, which way ſhee ſhould offend her huſband: but finding in her ſelfe a cleere conſcience, ceaſed to muſe, till ſuch time as ſhe might find opportunity to demand the cauſe of his dumps. In the meane time Pandoſtos mind was ſo farr charged with Iealouſie, that he noe longer doubted, but was aſſured (as hee thought) that his friend Egiſtus entred a wrong point in his tables, & ſo had plaid him falſe play. Whereupon deſirous to reuenge ſo great an iniury, he thought beſt to diſſemble the grudg with a faire & friendly countenance: and ſo vnder the ſhape of a friend, to ſhew him the trick of a foe? deuiſing with himſelfe a long time how he might beſt put away Egiſtus, without ſuſpition of treacherous murther, concluded at laſt to poyſon him. Which opinion pleaſing his humour, he became reſolute in his determination, & the better to bring y matter to paſſe, he called to him his cupbearer, with whom in ſecret he drake the matter: promiſing him for the performance therof, to giue him a thouſand Crownes of yerly reuenue: His Cupbearer, either being of a good conſcience, or willing for fashions ſake to deny ſuch a likely requeſt, began with great reaſons to perſwade Pandoſto

from

from his determinate miſchiefe: ſhewing him what an offence murther was to the gods, how much vnnaturall actions did more diſpleaſe the heauens, then men: and that cauſleſſe cruelty did ſeldome or neuer eſcape without reuenge: he laid before his face, that Egiſtus was his friend, a king, and one that was come into his Kingdome, to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them, that he had & did ſhew him a moſt friendly countenance: how Egiſtus was not onely honored of his owne people by obedience, but alſo loued of the Bohemians for his courteſie: And that if he now ſhould, without any iuſt or manifeſt cauſe, poyſon him, it would not onely be a great diſhonour to his Maieſty, and a meanes to ſhew perpetuall ennity betweene the Sycilians and the Bohemians, but alſo his owne ſubiects would repine at ſuch treacherous cruelty. Theſe & ſuch like perſwaſions of Franion (for ſo was his Cupbearer called) could no whit preuaile to diſſwade him from his diuelliſh enterpriſe: but remayning reſolute in his determination (his fury ſo fired with rage, as it could not be appeaſed with reaſon) he began with bitter taunts to take vp his man, and to lay before him two baits, preferment and death: ſaying, that if he would poyſon Egiſtus, he would aduance him to high dignities: if hee refuſed to doe it of an obſtinate minde, no torture ſhould bee too great to requite his diſobedience. Franion, ſeeing that to perſwade Pandoſto any more, was but to ſtriue againſt the ſtreame, conſented as ſoone as opportunity would giue him leaue, to diſpatch Egiſtus: wherewith Pandoſto remained ſomewhat ſatisfied, hoping now hee ſhould be fully reuenged of ſuch miſtruſted iniuries, intending alſo as ſoone as Egiſtus was dead, to giue his Wife a ſop of the ſame ſauce, & ſo be rid of thoſe which were the cauſe of his reſtleſſe ſorrow: while thus he lined in this hope, Franion being ſecret in his chamber, began to meditate w himſelfe in theſe termes.

AH Franion, treaſon is loued of many, but the traitor hated of all, vniuſt offences may for a time eſcape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art ſeruant to a king, & muſt obey at command: yet, Franion, againſt law & conſcience, it is not good to reſiſt a tyrant with armes, nor to pleaſe an vniuſt king with obedience. What ſhalt thou doe? Folly refuſed

gold, and frenzy preferment; wisedome seeketh after dignity, and counsell loketh for gaine: Egistus is a stranger to thee, and Pandosto thy Soueraigne: Thou hast little cause to respect the one, and oughtest to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this, Franion, that a pound of Gold is worth a Tunne of lead: great gifts are little gods; and preferment to a meane man, is a whetstone to courage. There is nothing swéter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though most count thee a traytor, so all call thee rich. Dignity, Franion, aduanceth thy posterity, and euill report can but hurt thy selfe. Know this where Eagles build, Faulcons may prey: where Lyons harnt, Foxes may steale. Kings are knowne to command, seruants are blameleſſe to consent: feare not thou then to lift at Egistus, Pandosto shall beare the burthen. Yea, but Franion, conscience is a worme that neuer biteth, but neuer ceaseth. That which is rubbed with the stone Galactites, will neuer bee hot. Flesh dipped in the Sea Ægeum, will neuer bee swéet. The Herbe Trigion, being once bit with an Apsis, neuer groweth: and conscience once stayned with innocent bloud, is alwaies tyed to a guilty remorse. Prefer thy content before riches, and a cleare mind before dignity: so being poore, thou shalt haue rich peace, or else rich thou shalt enioy disquiet.

FRanion hauing muttered out these or such like words, séeing either he must dye with a cleare mind, or liue with a spotted conscience: hee was so cumbred with diuers cogitations, that he could take no rest, vntill at last he determined to breake the matter to Egistus: but fearing that the King should either suspect or heare of such matters, he concealed the deuice till opportunitie would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an Euening he went to Egistus lodging, and desirous to speake with him of certayne affaires that touched the King, after all were commanded out of the Chamber. Franion made manifest the whole conspiracy which Pandosto had deuised against him, desiring Egistus not to account him a traitor for bewraying his Masters counsell, but to thinke that hee did it for conscience: hoping that although his Master inflamed with rage, or incensed by some sinister reports, or slaunderous

speeches,

ſpeeches, had imagined ſuch cauſeleſſe miſchiefe, yet when time ſhould paciſie his anger, and try thoſe talebearers but flattering Parаſites, then hee would count him as a faithfull Seruant, that with ſuch care had kept his Maiters credit. Egiſtus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his Tale, but a quaking fear poſſeſſed all his limmes, thinking that there was ſome treaſon wrought, and that Franion did but ſhadow his craft with theſe falſe colours: wherefore he began to ware in choler, and ſaid, that he doubted not Pandoſto, ſith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet bene any breath of amitie: he had not ſought to inuade his Lands, to conſpire with his enemies, to diſlawde his Subiects from their allegiance: but in word and thought he reſted his at all times: he knew not therefore any cauſe, that ſhould moue Pandoſto to ſeeke his death, but ſuſpected it to bee a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him at odds. Franion ſtaying him in the midſt of his talke, told him, That to dally with Princes, was, with the ſwarnes, to ſing againſt their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any ſuch miſchiefe, it might haue bene better brought to paſſe, then by reuealing the conſpiracie: therefore his Maieſty did ill, to miſconſtrue of his good meaning, ſith his intent was to hinder treaſon, not to become a Traytor: and to confirme his promiſes, if it pleaſed his Maieſty to flye into Sycilia, for the ſafeguard of his life, hee would goe with him: and if then hee found not ſuch a practice to bee pretended, let his imagined Treachery be repayed with moſt monſtrous torments. Egiſtus hearing the ſolemne protеſtations of Franion, beganne to conſider, that in Loue and Kingdomes, neither Faith nor Law is to bee reſpected: doubting that Pandoſto thought by his death to deſtroy his Foe, and with ſpeedie Warre to inuade Sycilia. Theſe and ſuch doubts throughly weighed, hee gaue great thankes to Franion, promiſing, if hee might with life returne to Syracuſa, that hee would create him a Duke in Sycilia: craning his counſell how hee might eſcape out of the Countrey. Franion who hauing ſome ſmall skill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and Hauens, and knew euery danger in the Sea, ioyning in counſel with the Maſter of Egiſtus Nauy, rigged all their ſhips,

and ſetting them a float, let them lie at anchor, to be in the more readineſſe, when time & wind ſhould ſerue. Fortune, although blind, yet by chance, fauouring this iuſt cauſe, ſent them within ſix dayes a good gale of wind: which Franion ſeeing fit for their purpoſe, to put Pandoſto out of ſuſpition, the night before they ſhould ſayle, he went to him and promiſed, that the next day he would put the deuice in practice; for he had got ſuch a forcible poyſon as the very ſmell thereof would procure ſudden death. Pandoſto was ioyfull to heare this good newes, & thought euery houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge: but his ſuit had but ill ſucceſſe: for Egiſtus fearing that delay might breed danger, and willing that the graſſe ſhould not be cut from vnder his feet, taking bag and baggage, by the helpe of Franion conueyed himſelfe, and his men, out at the Poſterne gate of the Citie, ſo ſecretly, and ſpeedily, that without any ſuſpition they got to the Sea-ſhore: where, with many a bitter curſe, taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went a bord, weighing their Anchors, and hoiſting ſaile, they paſſed as faſt as wind & ſea would permit towards Sycilia: Egiſtus being a ioyfull man that he had ſafely paſt ſuch treacherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the Sea, Pandoſto and his Citizens were in an vproare: for ſeeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared ſome treaſon, and the King thought that without queſtion his ſuſpition was true, ſeeing the Cupbearer had betrayed the ſum of his ſecret pretence. Whereupon he began to imagine that Franion & his wife Bellaria had conſpired with Egiſtus, and that the feruent affection ſhe bare him, was the onely meane of his ſecret departure: inſomuch, that incenſed with rage, he commaunded that his wife ſhould bee carried ſtraight to priſon, vntill they heard further of his pleaſure. The Guards vnwilling to lay their hands on ſuch a vertuous Princeſſe, and yet fearing the Kings fury, went very ſorrowfull to fulfill their charge: comming to the Queenes Lodging, they found her playing with her young Sonne Garinter: vnto whom with teares doing the meſſage, Bellaria aſtoniſhed at ſuch a hard cenſure, and finding her cleare conſcience a ſure aduocate to plead in her cauſe, went to the Priſon moſt willingly: where with ſighes and

teares.

teares ſhe paſt away the time, till ſhe might come to her tryall.

But Pandoſto, whoſe reaſon was ſurpreſſed with rage, and whoſe vnbridled Folly was incenſed with fury, ſeeing Franion had bewrayed his ſecrets, and that Egiſtus might well be railed on, but not reuenged: determined to weake all his wrath on poore Bellaria. Hee therefore cauſed a generall Proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Quéene and Egiſtus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed moſt inceſtuous adulterie, but alſo had conſpired the Kings death: whereupon the traytor Franion was fled away with Egiſtus, & Bellaria was moſt iuſtly impriſoned. This Proclamation being once blazed throrow the Countrey, although the vertuous diſpoſition of the Quéene did halfe diſcredit the contents, yet ſo ſuddaine and ſpeedy meſſage of Egiſtus, & the ſecret departure of Franion induced them (the circumſtances throughly conſidered) to think that both the Proclamation was true, and the King greatly inured: yet they pittyed her caſe, as ſorrowfull that ſo good a Lady ſhould be croſſed with ſuch aduerſe Fortune. But the King, whoſe reſtleſſe rage would admit no pitty, though that although he might ſufficiently requite his wiues falſhood with the bitter plague of pinching penurie, yet his minde ſhould neuer be glutted with reuenge, till hee might haue fit time & opportunity to repay the treachery of Egiſtus, with a fatall iniury. But a curſt Cow hath often-times ſhort horns, and a willing mind but a weake arme. For Pandoſto, although he felt that reuenge was a ſpur to warre, and that enuy alwayes proffereth ſtéele, yet he ſaw, that Egiſtus was not only of great puiſſance and prowéſſe to withſtand him, but had alſo many Kings of his alliance to ayd him, if néed ſhould ſerue: for he married the Emperours Daughter of Ruſsia. Theſe and the like conſiderations ſomething danted Pandoſto his courage, ſo that he was content rather to put vp a manifeſt iniury with peace, then hunt after reuenge, diſhonour and loſſe: determining, ſince Egiſtus had eſcaped ſcot-free, that Bellaria ſhould pay for all at an vnreaſonable price.

Remayning thus reſolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing ſtill in Priſon, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

ſuch [illegible], nor that Egiſtus had euer offered her ſuch diſcourteſie, would gladly haue come to her anſwer, that both ſhe might haue knowne her iuſt accuſers, and cléered her ſelfe of that guilleſſe crime.

But Pandoſto was ſo enflamed with rage, and infected with Ielouſie, as he would not vouchſafe to heare her, nor admit any iuſt excuſe: ſo that ſhée was fayne to make a vertue of her néed, and with patience to beare theſe heauy iniuries. As thus ſhee lay croſſed with calamites (a great cauſe to increaſe her griefe) ſhée found her ſelfe quicke with child: which as ſoone as ſhe felt ſtir in her body, ſhee burſt forth into bitter teares, exclayming againſt fortune in theſe termes.

ALas, Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, becauſe fortunate! Better thou hadſt béene borne a Begger then a Prince, ſo ſhouldeſt thou haue diuided Fortune with want, where now ſhe ſporteth her ſelfe with thy plenty. Ah happy life, where poore thoughts, and meane deſires liue in ſecure content, not fearing Fortune, becauſe to low. For Fortune, thou ſeeſt now, Bellaria, that Care is a companion to Honor, not to pouerty: that high Cedars are cruſhed with tempeſts, when low Shrubs are not touched with the Wind: precious Diamonds are cut with the File, when deſpiſed Pebble lyes ſafe in the ſand: Delphos is ſought to by Princes, not Beggers: and Fortunes Altars ſmoke with Kings preſents, not with poore mens gifts. Happy are ſuch, Bellaria, that curſe Fortune for contempt, not feare: and may wiſh they were, not ſorry they haue béene. Thou art a Princeſſe, Bellaria, and yet a priſoner: borne to the one by deſcent, aſſigned to the other by deſpight: accuſed without cauſe, and therfore oughteſt to die without care: for patience is a ſhield againſt Fortune, and a guiltleſſe minde yéeldeth not to ſorrow. Ah, but infamy galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with Times Feathers, and Enuy often-times ſoundeth Fames Trumpet: The ſuſpected adultery ſhall lye in the Ayre, and thy knowne vertues ſhall lye hid in the Earth: one Moale ſtayneth a whole Face; and what is once ſpotted with Infamie, can hardly be worne out with Time. Dy then, Bellaria, Bellaria dye, for if the gods ſhould ſay, thou art guilt-

leſſe,

leſſe, yet Enuy would heare the gods, but neuer beleeue the gods. Ah, hapleſſe wretch, ceaſe theſe Termes: Deſperate thoughts are fit for them that feare ſhame, not for ſuch as hope for credit. Pandoſto hath darkned thy fame, but ſhall neuer diſcredit thy Vertues. Suſpition may enter a falſe Action, but proofe ſhall neuer put in his Plea. Care not then for Enuy ſith Report hath a blifter on her Tongue: and let ſorrow bite them which offend, not touch thee that art faultleſſe. But alas, poore Soule, how canſt thou but ſorrow? Thou art with Child, and by him, that in ſtead of kind pitty, pincheth thee in cold Priſon. And with that, ſuch gaſping ſighes ſtopping her breath that ſhe could not vtter any more words, but wringing her hands, and guſhing forth ſtreames of teares, ſhe paſſed away the time with bitter complaynts.

The Jaylor pittying theſe her heauy paſſions, thinking that if the King knew ſhe were with Child, he would ſomwhat appeaſe his fury, & releaſe her from priſon, went in all haſt, and certified Pandoſto what the effect of Bellaria's complaynt was: who no ſooner heard the Jaylor ſay ſhe was with Child, but as one poſſeſſed with a phrenzie, he roſe vp in a rage, ſwearing that ſhe, and the baſtard brat ſhee was withall, ſhould dy, if the gods themſelues ſayd no: thinking ſurely by computation of time, that Egiſtus, & not he, was Father to the Child. This ſuſpitious thought galled a freſh his halfe-healed ſore, in ſo much as he could take no reſt, vntill he might mittigate his choler with a iuſt reuenge, which happened preſently after. Bellaria was brought to bed of a fayre and beautifull Daughter, which no ſooner Pandoſto heard, but he determined that both Bellaria & the young infant ſhould be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the Kings cruell ſentence, ſought by perſwaſions to diuert him from his bloody determination: ſaying before his face the innocency of the Child, & vertuous diſpoſition of his wife, how ſhe had continually loued and honoured him ſo tenderly, that without due proofe he could not, nor ought not to approach her of that crime: and if ſhee had faulted, yet it were more honorable to pardon with mercy, then to puniſh with extreamitie, & more Kingly, to be commended of pitty, then to diſcredit her. And

as

vn for the Child, if he would punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strive against nature and iustice; and that vnnaturall actions doe more offend the gods, then men: how causlesse cruletie, nor innocent blond neuer escapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appease his rage, but he rested resolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adultresse, the child was a Bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous Brat should call him Father. Yet at last (seeing his Noble-men were importunate vpon him) he was content to spare the Childs life, and yet to put it to a worse death. For he found out this deuice, that seeing (as hee thought) it came by Fortune, so hee would commit it to the charge of Fortune, & therfore he caused a little cock-boate to be prouided, wherin he meant to put the babe, and then send it to the mercies of the Seas, and the destinies. From this his Peeres in no wise could perswade him, but that he sent presently two of his Guard to fetch the Child: who being come to the Prison, and with weeping teares recounting their Masters message. Bellaria no sooner heard the rigorus resolution of her mercilesse Husband, but shee fell downe in a swound, so that all thought she had beene dead: yet at last being come to her selfe, she cryed and screeked out in this wise.

ALas, sweet infortunate Babe, scarce borne, before enuied by Fortune, would the day of thy birth had been the terme of my life: then shouldest thou haue made an end to care, and preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deserue such hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too short for so sharpe a doome: but thy vntimely death must pay thy Mothers debts, and her guiltlesse crime must bee thy gastly curse. And shalt thou, sweet Babe, be committed to Fortune, when thou art already spited by Fortune? Shall the Seas be thy harbour, and the hard Boat thy Cradle? Shall thy tender mouth, in stead of sweet kisses, be nipped with bitter stormes? Shalt thou haue the whistling windes for thy Lullaby, and the salt Sea foome in stead of sweet Milke? Alas, what destinies would assigne such hard hap? What father would be so cruell? Or what gods will not reuenge such rigour? Let me kisse thy lips (sweet Infant) and wet thy tender Cheekes with my teares, & put this Chaine

about

about thy little necke: that if Fortune ſaue thée, it may help to ſuccour thée. Thus, ſince thou muſt goe to ſurge in the gaſtfull Seas, with a ſorrowfull kiſſe I bid thée farewell, and I pray the gods thou maiſt fare well. Such and ſo great was her griefe that her vitall Spirits being ſuppreſſt with ſorrow, ſhee fell againe downe in a trance, hauing her ſenſes ſo ſpotted with care, that after ſhee was reuiued, yet ſhee loſt her memory, & lay for a great time without mouing, as one in a trance. The Guard left her in this perplexity, and carried the Child to the King: who quite deuoid of pitty, commanded that without delay it ſhould bee put into the Boat, hauing neither Saile nor Rudder to guide it, and ſo to be caried into the midſt of the Sea, and there left to the wind and Waues, as the Deſtinies pleaſe to appoint. The very Ship-men, ſeeing the ſweet countenance of the young Babe, began to accuſe the King of rigour, and to pitty the Childs hard fortune: but feare conſtrained them to that which their nature did abhor: ſo that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boat, and with a few greene boughes made a homely Cabin to ſhroud it, as they could for wind and Weather. Hauing thus trimmed a Boat, they tyed it to a ſhip, and ſo haled it into the maine Sea, and then cut in ſunder the Cord: which they had no ſooner done, but there aroſe a mighty Tempeſt, which toſſed the little Boat ſo vehemently in the waues, that the Ship-men thought it could not continue long without ſinking: yea the ſtorme grew ſo great, that with great labour and perill they got to the ſhore. But, leaning the child to her fortunes, againe to Pandoſto: who not yet glutted with ſufficient reuenge, deuiſed which way hee ſhould beſt increaſe his wiues calamity. But firſt aſſembling his Nobles and Councellors, hee called her (for the more reproach) in open Court; where it was obiected againſt her, that ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, and conſpired with Franion to poyſon Pandoſto her Husband; but their pretence being partly eſpyed, ſhe counſelled them to flye away by night, for their better ſafety. Bellaria (who ſtanding like a priſoner at the Barre, and feeling in her ſelfe a cleare conſcience to withſtand her falſe accuſers) ſeeing no leſſe then death could pacifie her Husbands wrath, waxed bold, and deſired that ſhe might haue Law and Juſtice;

(for [illegible] she neither craued nor hoped) and that those periured wretches, which had falsely accused her to the King, might be brought before her face to giue in euidence. Pandosto (whose rage and iealousie was such, as no reason nor equity could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credit, as their words were sufficient witnesse, & that the sodaine and secret flight of Egistus and Franion confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to deny such a monstrous crime, and to bee impudent in forswearing the fact, since she had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her countenance should stand for no coyne: for as the bastard which shee bare was serued, so shee should with some cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismaid with this rough reply, told her Husband Pandosto, that hee spake vppon choller, and not conscionce: for her vertuous life had euer béene such, as no spot of suspition could euer stayne. And if shee had borne a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect hee was his friend, and not for any lusting affection: therefore if she were condemned without any further proofe it was rigour and not Law. The Noble-men which sate in Iudgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that her accusers might be openly examined, & sworne: if then the euidence were such as the Iury might finde her guilty (for séeing shee was a Prince, she ought to be tryed by her Peeres) then let her haue such punishment as the extreamity of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answer, that in this case hee might, and would dispence with the Law: and that the Iury being once panelled, they should take his word for sufficient euidence, otherwise hee would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noblemen seeing the king in choller, were all whist, but Bellaria, whose life hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamy, then momentany death, told the king, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were vayne to haue the Iury yéeld their verdict, & thervpon shee fell downe vpon her knées, and desired the king, that for the loue he bare to his young Sonne Garinter, whom she brought into the world that hee would grant her a request, the which was this, that it would please his Maiesty to send sixe of his Noble-men whom he best trusted to the Isle of Delphos, there to inquire of the

Oracle of Apollo, whether ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, or conſpired to poyſon him with Franion: and if the god Apollo, who by his diuine eſſence knowes all ſecrets, gaue anſwer that ſhe was guilty, ſhee was content to ſuffer any torment, were it neuer ſo terrible. The requeſt was ſo reaſonable, that Pandoſto could not for ſhame deny it, vnleſſe he would bee counted of all his Subiects more wilfull then wiſe. Hee therefore agreed, that with as good ſpeed as might bee, there ſhould be certaine Ambaſſadors diſpatcht to the Ile of Delphos: and in the meane ſeaſon he commanded that his wife ſhould bee kept in cloſe Priſon. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull of her little Babe that floated on the Seas, then ſorrowfull for her owne miſhap: for of that ſhee doubted; of her ſelfe ſhee was aſſured: knowing that if Apollo ſhould giue ſentence according to the thoughts of her heart, yet the ſentence ſhould goe on her ſide, ſuch was the clearneſſe of her mind in this caſe. But Pandoſto (whoſe ſuſpicious head ſtill remained in one ſong) choſe out ſixe of his Nobility, whom he knew were ſcarce indifferent men in the Quænes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their iourney, ſent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kinges commaund, and deſirous to ſee the ſituation and cuſtome of the Iſland, diſpatched their affaires with as much ſpeed as might bee, and embarked themſelues to the voyage, which, (the wind and weather ſerning fit for their purpoſe) was ſone ended. For within three weeks they arriued at Delphos: where they were no ſooner ſet on Land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering ſacrifice vnto the god, and gifts to the Prieſt, as the cuſtome was, they humbly craued an anſwer of their demaund. They had not long kneeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voice ſayd: Bohemians what yee find behind the Altar, take, and depart. They forthwith obeyed the Oracle, found a ſcrowle of Parchment, wherein were written theſe words in Letters of Gold.

The Oracle.

Suſpition is no proofe: Iealouſie is an vnequall Iudge: *Bellaria* is chaſte: *Egiſtus* blameleſſe: *Franion* a true Subiect: *Pandoſto* treacherous, his Babe innocent, and the King ſhall dye without an heire, if that which is loſt be not found.

As soone as they had taken out this Scrowle, the Priest of the god commanded them, that they should not presume to reade it, before they came to the presence of Pandosto, unlesse they would incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his command, taking their leaue of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple and went to their Ships: and as soone as Wind would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia, where in short time they safely arriued, and with great Triumph issuing out of their Ships, went to the Kings Palace, whom they found in his Chamber accompanied with other Noble-men. Pandosto no sooner saw them, but with a merry countenance he welcomed them home, asking, what newes? They told his Maiesty, that they had receiued answer of the god written in a Scrowle: but with this charge, that they should not read the contents before they came in the presence of the King: and with that they deliuered him the Parchment. But his Noble-men intreated him, that sith therein were contayned either the safety of his Wifes life and honestie, or her death, or perpetuall infamie; that he would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the Iudgement Hall, where the Queene, brought in as a prisoner, should heare the contents: If shee were found guilty by the Oracle of the god, then all should haue cause to thinke his rigour proceeded of due desert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then she should be cleered before all, sith she had been accused openly. This pleased the King, so that he appointed the day, and assembled all the Lords and Commons, and caused the Queene to be brought in before the Iudgement Seat, commanding that the Iudgment should bee read: wherein shee was accused of Adulterie with Egistus, and of Conspiracy with Franion. Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit astonished, but made this cheerefull answer:

If the diuine powers bee priuie to humane Actions, (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shal make fortune blush, and my vnspotted life shall stayne spitefull descredit. For although lying report hath sought to appeach mine honour, and suspition hath intended to soyle credit with infamie: yet where vertue

vertue keepeth the Fort, report and ſuſpition may aſſaile, but neuer ſacke. Now I haue led my life before Egiſtus comming, I appeale (Pandoſto) to the gods and to thy conſcience. What hath paſſed betweene him and me, the gods onely know, and I hope will preſently reueale. That I loued Egiſtus, I cannot denie: that I honoured him, I ſhame not to confeſſe. To the one I was forced by his vertue; to the other for his dignities. But as touching laſciuious luſt, I ſay, Egiſtus is honeſt, and hope my ſelfe to be found without ſpot. For Franion, I can neither accuſe him nor excuſe him: I was not priuie to his departure: And that this is true which I haue heere rehearſed, I refer my ſelfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

BEllaria had no ſooner ſayd, but the King commanded that one of the Dukes ſhould read the contents of the Scrowle, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great ſhoute, reioycing and clapping their hands that the Queene was cleere of that falſe accuſation: But the king, whoſe conſcience was a witneſſe againſt him of his wittleſſe fury, and ſafe ſuſpected Iealouſie, was ſo aſhamed of his raſh folly, that hee intreated his Nobles to perſwade Bellaria to forgiue and forget theſe iniuries, promiſing not only to ſhew himſelfe a loyall and louing Husband, but alſo to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus and Franion: reuealing then before them all the cauſe of their ſecret flight, and how treacherouſly he thought to haue practiſed his death, if the good minde of his Cup-bearer had not preuented his purpoſe. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his young Sonne Garinter was ſodaynely dead: which newes ſo ſone as Bellaria heard, ſurcharged before with extreme ioy, and now ſuppreſſed with heauy ſorrow, her vitall ſpirits were ſtopped, that ſhe fell downe preſently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This ſudden fight ſo appalled the Kings ſences, that he ſunke from his Seat in a ſwound, ſo as he was fayne to bee carried by his Nobles to his Palace, where he lay by the ſpace of three daies without ſpeech. His Commons were as men in deſpaire, ſo diuerſly diſtreſſed, there was nothing but mourning and lamentation to bee heard throughout all Bohemia: Their young Prince dead, their ver-

[illegible] bereaued of her life, and their King and Soue-
raigne in great hazzard: this tragicall diſcourſe of Fortune ſo
daunted them, as they went like ſhadowes, not men: yet ſom e-
what to comfort their heauy hearts, they heard that Pandoſto
was come to himſelfe, and had recouered his ſpeech: who, as in
fury, brayed their bitter ſpeeches:

O Miſerable Pandoſto! what furer witnes then conſcience?
What thoughts moze ſowze then ſuſpicion? What plague
moze bad then Jealouſie? Vnnaturall actions offend the gods,
moze then men: and cauſeleſſe cruelty neuer ſcapes with-
out reuenge. I haue committed ſuch a bloudy fact, as repent
I may, but recall I cannot. Ah Jealouſie, a hell to the mind,
and a horrour to the conſcience, ſuppreſſing reaſon, and melting
rage: a worſe paſſion then frenzie, a greater plague then mad-
neſſe. Are the gods iuſt? then let them reuenge ſuch bruttiſh
cruelty: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my
loning Wife I haue ſlaine with ſlanderous ſuſpicion: my tru-
ſtie friend I haue ſought to betray: and yet the gods are ſlack
to plague ſuch offences. Ah vniuſt Apollo, Pandoſto is the man
that hath committed the fault; why ſhould Garinter, ſilly child,
abide the paine? Well, ſith the gods meane to prolong my daies
to increaſe my dolour, I will offer my guilty bloud a ſacrifice
to thoſe guiltleſſe ſoules, whoſe liues are loſt by rigorous fol-
ly. And with that hee reached at a Rapier to haue murdered
himſelfe: but his Peeres being preſent, ſtayed him from ſuch
a bloody act: perſwading him to thinke, that the Common-
wealth conſiſted on his ſafety, and that thoſe Sheepe could not
but periſh that wanted a Shepheard: wiſhing that if he would
not liue for himſelfe, yet hee ſhould haue care of his Subiects,
and to put ſuch fancies out of his mind, ſith in ſores paſt helpe,
ſalues doe not heale, but hurt: and in thinges paſt cure, care is
a corroſiue. With theſe & ſuch like perſwations, the King was
ouercome, and began ſomewhat to quiet his mind: ſo that ſo
ſoone as he could goe abroad, he cauſed his wife to be imbalmed,
and wrapt in Lead, with her young Sonne Garinter: erecting a
rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein hee intombed them both,
making ſuch ſolemne obſequies at her Funerall, as all Bohe-
mia,

mia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his former paſſed folly: cauſing this Epitaph to bee ingrauen on her Tombe, in letters of Gold:

The Epitaph.

Heere lyes intombde Bellaria *faire,*
Falſly accus'd to be vnchaſte:
Cleer'd by Apollo's *ſacred doome.*
Yet ſlaine by Iealouſie at laſt.

What-ere thou be that paſſeſt by,
Curſe him that caus'd this Queene to dye.

THis Epitaph being engrauen, Pandoſto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there, with watry plaints, bewayle his misfortune: coueting no other companion but ſorrow, and no other harmonie but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous paſſions, at laſt let vs come to ſhew the tragicall diſcourſe of the young Infant:

WHo being toſſed with wind and waues, floated two whole dayes without ſuccour, ready at euery puffe to bee drowned in the Sea: till at the laſt the tempeſt ceaſed, the little Boat was driuen with the tide into the Coaſt of Cycilia: where ſticking vpon the Sands, it reſt. Fortune minding to bee wanton, (willing to ſhew that as ſhee hath wrinckles on her browes, ſo ſhe hath dimples in her chekes) thought after ſo many ſowre lookes, to ſend a fayned ſmile; and after a puffing ſtorme, to bring a pretty calme, ſhee began thus to dally. It fortuned a poore mercenary Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his liuing by other mens Flockes, miſſed one of his ſheepe, and thinking it had ſtrayed into the couert that was hard by, ſought very diligently to find that which hee could not ſee, fearing either that the Wolues or Eagles had vndone him, (for he

he was [illegible], as a Sheepe was halfe his ſubſtance) wandred downe towards the Sea-cliffes, to ſee if perchance the Sheepe was browzing on the Sea-Ivy, whereon they doe greatly feed. But not finding her there, as hee was ready to returne to his Flocke, he heard a child cry: but knowing there was no houſe neere, thought he had miſtaken the ſound, and that it was the bleating of his Sheepe. Wherefore looking more narrowly, as he caſt his eye to the Sea, he eſpied a little Boat, from whence (as he attentively liſtned) he might heare a cry to come. Standing a good while in a maze, at laſt he went to the ſhore, and wading to the Boat, as he looked in, he ſaw a little Babe lying all alone, ready to dy for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, richly embrothered with Gold, and having a Chaine about his necke. The Shepheard, who before had never ſeene ſo faire a babe, nor ſo rich Jewels, thought aſſuredly that it was ſome little god, and began with great devotion to knock on his breſt. The Babe, who writhed with the head to ſeeke for the Pap, began agayne to cry afreſh: whereby the poore man knew that it was a childe, which by ſome ſiniſter meanes was driven thither by diſtreſſe of weather: marvelling how ſuch a silly Infant, which by the Mantle and the chaine, could not but be borne of Noble parentage, ſhould bee ſo hardly croſſed with deadly miſhap. The poore Sheapheard perplexed thus with divers thoughts, take pitty of the child, and determined with himſelfe to carry it to the king, that there it might be brought up, according to the worthineſſe of its birth: for his ability could not afford to foſter it, though his mind was willing to further it. Taking therefore the child in his armes, as he folded the Mantle together, the better to defend it from the cold, there fell downe at his feet a very faire & rich purſe, wherin he found a great ſum of Gold: which ſight ſo revived the Shepheards ſpirits, as hee was greatly ravished with joy, & daunted with feare: joyfull, to ſee ſuch a ſum in his power; fearefull, if it ſhould be known, that it might breed his further danger. Neceſſity twicht him at the leaſt to retayne the Gold, though hee would not keepe the child: the ſimplicity of his conſcience feared him from ſuch deceitfull bribery. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, untill at laſt the covetouſneſſe of the coyne overcame him:

him: for what will not the greedy desire of gold cause a man to doe? So that he was resolued in himselfe to forsake the child, and with the summe to relieue his want. Resting thus resolute in this poynt, he left forking his sheep, and as couertly and secretlie as hee could, went a by-way to his House, least any of his Neighbours should perceiue his carriage. Assone as hee was got home, entring in at the doore, the child began to cry. Which his wife hearing, and seeing her husband with a young babe in his armes, began to be somewhat iealous: yet maruelling that her husband would be so wanton abroad, sith hee was so quiet at home. But as women are naturally giuen to beleeue the worst, so his wife thinking it was some bastard, began to crow against her good man: and taking vp a cudgell (for the most maister went breechlesse) sware solemnely that shee would make Clubs trump, if he brought any bastard brat within her doores. The good-man seeing his wife in her maiestie, with her Mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow, for feare of blowes and desired her to be quiet, for there was no such matter: but if she could hold her peace, they were made for euer. And with that he told her the whole matter: how hee had found the child in a little Boat, without any succour, wrapped in that costly Mantle, and hauing that rich Chaine about her neck: but at last when he shewed her the purse full of gold, shee began to simper something sweetly. And taking her husband about her necke, kissed him after her homely fashion: saying, that she hoped, God had seene their want, and now meant to relieue their pouerty, and seeing they could get no children, had sent them this little babe to be their Heire. Take heed in any case (sayth the shepheard) that you be secret, and blab it not out when you meete with you Gossips. For if you doe, we are not like not only to lose the Gold and Iewels, but our other goodes and liues. Tush (quoth his wife) profit is a good hatch before the doore: Feare not, I haue other thinges to talke of, then this: but I pray you let vs lay vp the money surely, and the Iewels, least by any mishap it be espied. After that they had set all things in order, the shepheard went to his sheepe with a merry note, and the good wife learned to sing Lullabie at home with her young babe, wrapped it in a homely blanket, in stead of a rich mantle,

nourishing it so cleanly and carefully, as it began to be a iollie Girle: in so much that they began both of them to be very fond of it, and as it waxed in age, so it increased in beauty. The Shepheard every night at his comming home, would sing and dance it on his knee, and prattle, that in short time it began to speake, and call him Dadde, and her Mam. At last, when it grew to riper yeares, that it was about seauen yeeres old, the Shepheard left keeping of other mens sheepe, and with the money hee found in the purse, hee bought him the lease of a pretty Farme, and got a small flocke of Sheepe: which when Fawnia (for so they named the child) came to the age of ten yeers, he set her to keepe sheepe, and shee with such diligence performed her charge, as the Sheepe prospered marueilously vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had beene her Father, and Mopsa her mother (for so was the Shepheards wife called) & honoured and obeyed them with such reuerence, that all the neighbours praised the dutifull obedience of the Childe. Porrus grew in short time to be a man of some wealth and credit. For Fortune so fauoured him, as hauing no charge but Fawnia, that hee began to purchase Land, intending after his death to giue it to his Daughter: so that diuers rich Farmers Sonnes came as wooers to his house. For Fawnia was something cleanly attyred, being of such singular beauty, and excellent wit, that who so saw her, would haue thought shee had beene some heauenly Nymph, and not a mortall Creature. In so much that when shee came to the Age of thirteene yeares, she so increased with exquisite perfection both of Body and minde, as her naturall disposition did bewray, that shee was borne of some high parentage. But the people thinking she was the daughter to the Shepheard Porrus, rested onely amazed at her beauty and wit. Yea, shee won such fauour and commendations in euery mans eye, as her beauty was not onely praysed in the Countrey, but also spoken of in the Court. Yet such was her submisse modestie, that although her praysе daylie increased, her mind was no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a countrey mayd, and the daughter of a poore Shepheard. Euery day shee went forth with her sheep to the field: keeping the with such care and diligence, as all men thought she was very paynefull,

full, defending her face from the heat of the Sunne with no other vaile, but with a Garland made of Boughes and Flowers. Which attyre became her so gallantly, as shee seemed to bee the goddesse Flora her selfe for beauty. Fortune who all this while had shewed a friendly face, beganne now to turne her backe, & to shew a lowring countenance: intending as shee had given Fawnia a slender Checke, so she would give her a harder Fate. Whereing which to passe, shee layd her trayne on this wise: Egistus had but one onely Sonne called Doraſtus, about the age of Twenty yeares: a Prince so decked and adorned with the gifts of Natures, so fraught with beauty and vertuous qualities, as not onely his Father ioyed to haue so good a Son, but his Commons reioyced that God had sent them so noble a Prince to succéed in the Kingdome. Egistus, placing all his ioy in the perfection of his sonne (seeing that he was now marriageable) sent Embaſſadours to the King of Denmarke, to intreate a marriage betweene him and his daughter. Who willingly consenting, made answer, that the next spring, if it pleased Egistus with his Son to come into Denmarke, hee doubted not, but they should agree vpon reasonable conditions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friendly answer, thought conuenient in the meane time to breake it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunity, he spake to him in these fatherly termes:

DOraſtus, thy youth warneth me to preuent the worſt, and mine age to prouide the best. Opportunities neglected, are signes of folly: Actions measured by time, are seldome bitten with repentance. Thou art young, and I old: Age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot conceiue.

I therefore will counsell thée as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a childe. Thou seest, my white haires are blossomes for the Graue: and thy fresh colours, Fruit for time and Fortune: so that it behoueth mee, to thinke how to dye: and for thee, to care how to liue. My Crowne I muſt leaue by death, and thou enioy my Kingdome by succeſſion. Wherein, I hope, thy Vertue and Prowesse shall bee such, as though my Subiects want my person, yet shall see in thee my perfection. That

nothing either may faile to satisfie thy mind, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to see thee well married before I dye, and thou become old.

Dorastus (who from his infancy, delighted rather to dy with Mars in the Field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber) fearing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerend answer:

SIr, there is no greater Bond then duty, nor no stricter Law then Nature: disobedience in youth, is often galled with despight in age. The command of the father ought to be a constraint to the child: so Parents wils are Lawes, so they passe not all Lawes. May it please your Grace therefore, to appoint whom I shall loue: rather then by deniall I should be appeached of disobedience, I rest content to loue, though it bee the onely thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his Sonne to flye farre from the marke, began to be somewhat cholericke, and therefore made him this answer:

WHat, Dorastus, canst thou not loue? Commeth this Cinicall passion of proud desires, or peeuish frowardnes? What, dost thou thinke thy selfe too good for all, or none good enough for thee? I tell thee, Dorastus, there is nothing sweeter then youth: nor swifter decreasing, while it is increasing. Time past with folly, may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marrie in age, thy Wiues fresh roulours will breed in thee dead thoughts and suspition, and thy white hayres her loathsomnes and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with kingdomes, or Treasures, but with youthfull conceits, and sweet amours. Vulcan was allotted to shake the Tree, but Mars allowed to reape the fruit. Yeeld (Dorastus) to thy Fathers perswasions, which may preuent thy perils. I haue chosen thee a wife, faire by Nature, Royall by Birth, by vertues famous, Learned by education, and rich by Possessions: so that it is hard to iudge whether her Bounty or Fortune, her Beauty or Vertue bee of greater force: I meane (Dorastus) Euphania, Daughter and Heire to the King of Denmarke.

Egistus

Egistus pausing héere a while, looking when his Sonne should make him answer; and seeing that hee stood still, as one in a trance, he shooke him vp thus sharpely:

WEll (Dorastus) take héed, the Trée Alpya wasteth not with fire, but withereth with dewe: that which loue nourisheth not, perisheth with hate. If thou like Euphania, thou bréedest my content; and in louing her, thou shalt haue my loue: otherwise: and with that hee flung from his Sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by deniall displeased his Father: and halfe angry with himselfe, that he could not yeeld to that passion, whereto both reason and his Father perswaded him. But see how Fortune is plumed with Times Feathers, and how shée can minister strange causes, to bréede strange effects!

It hapned not long after this, that there was a méeting of al the Farmors daughters in Sycilia, whether Fawnia was also bidden as the Mistresse of the Feast: who hauing attired her selfe in her best garments, went amongst the rest of her companions to a merry méeting: there spending the day in such homely pastime as Shepheards vse. As the Euening grew on, and their sport ceased, each taking their leaue of other: Fawnia desiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the Flocke, to sée if they were well folded. And as they returned, it fortuned that Dorastus (who all that day had beene hawking, and killed store of game) incountred by the way these two maides; fearing that with Acteon had séene Diana: for hee thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stood in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the mayd with the garland on her head, was Fawnia, the fairest shepheardesse, whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus desirous to sée if nature had adorned her mind with any inward qualities, as she had decked her body with outward shape, began to question with her whose Daughter she was, of what age, and how shee had béene trayned vp? Who answered him with such modest reuerence and sharpnes of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a

commended to harken her inward qualities: wondring how so courtly behauiour could be found in so simple a Cottage; and curling Fortune, that had shrouded wit and beauty with such hard Fortune. As thus he held her a long time with chat, beautie seeing him at discouert, thought not to lose the vantage, but stroake him so deepely with an inuenomed shafte, as he wholly lost his liberty, and became a Sclaue to Loue, which before contemned loue, glad now to gaze vpon a poore shepheardesse, who before refused the offer of a rich Princesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his fancie, as he felt his minde greatly changed, and his affections altered; cursing Loue, that had wrought such a change. and blaming the baseneſſe of his mind, that would make such a choise. But thinking these were but passionate toyes that might be thrust out at pleasure: to auoyd the fyres that inchanted him, he spurs his Horse, and bade his faire Shepheardesse farewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Doraſtus) seeing his Face so well featured, and each limb so perfectly framed, began greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till she fond her selfe faultie: and perceiued that if she waded but a little further, she might slip ouer the shoes. She therefore seeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home, and faining her selfe not well at ease, got her to bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, shee could take no rest: for if she had waked, shee began to call to mind his beauty: and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection. Pestred with these vnacquaynted passions, she passed the night as she could in short slumbers.

Doraſtus (who all this whyle rode with a Flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the sweet sauour of Fawnia, but rested so bewitched with her witt and beauty, as hee could take no rest. He felt fancie to giue the assault, and his wounded mind ready to yeeld as vanquished: yet hee began with diuers considerations to suppresse his frantick affection, calling to mind, that Fawnia was a Shepheardesse: one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince, much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredit it were to himselfe, and what a

griefe

griefe it would be to his Father: blaming fortune, and accuſing his own folly, that ſhould be ſo fond, as but once to caſt a glance at ſuch a country ſlut. And as thus hee was raging againſt himſelfe, Loue (fearing if ſhee dallyed long, to loſe her Champion) ſtept more nigh, and gaue him ſuch a freſh wound, as it pierſt him at the heart, that hee was faine to yeild maugre his face, & to forſake the company, and got him to his Chamber; where being ſolemnly ſet, he burſt into theſe paſſionate termes.

Ah Doraſtus, art thou alone? No, not alone, while thou art tyed with theſe vnacquainted paſſions. Yeild to fancy thou canſt not by thy Fathers counſell: but in a frenzie thou art, by luſt deſtinies. Why father were content, if thou couldeſt loue: and thou therefore diſcontent, becauſe thou doeſt loue. O diuine Loue, feared of men, becauſe honoured of gods: not to be ſuppreſſed by wiſedome, becauſe not to be comprehended by reaſon: without law, and therefore aboue law.

How then, Doraſtus? why doſt thou blaze that with praiſes which thou haſt cauſe to blaſpheme with curſes? Yet why ſhould they curſe loue, which are in loue?

Bluſh Doraſtus at thy Fortune, thy choice, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without ſhame, nor thy affections vnout diſcredit. Ah, Fawnia, ſweet Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia!

Shameſt not thou, Doraſtus, to name one vnfit for thy birth, thy Dignities, thy Kingdomes? Dye, Doraſtus, Doraſtus, dye. Better haddeſt thou periſh with high deſires; than liue in baſe thoughts. Yea, but beauty muſt be obeyed, becauſe it is beauty: yet framed of the gods to feed the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that ſtriueth againſt loue, ſtriueth with them of Scyrum againſt the Winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh againſt the ſteele. I will therefore obey, becauſe I muſt obey. Fawnia yea Fawnia ſhall be my Fortune, in ſpight of Fortune. The gods aboue diſdaine not to loue Women beneath. Phoebus liked Daphne; Iupiter, Iö: and why not I then Fawnia? one ſomething inferiour to theſe in birth, but farre ſuperiour to them in beauty: borne to be a Shepheardeſſe, but worthy to be a Goddeſſe.

Ah, Doraſtus, wilt thou forget thy ſelfe, as to ſuffer affection to ſuppreſſe wiſedome, and loue violate thine honour? How ſowre will thy choyce be to thy Father, ſorrowfull to thy Subiects, to thy friends a griefe, moſt gladſome to thy foes? Subdue then thy affection, and ceaſe to loue her whom thou couldeſt not loue, vnleſſe blinded with too much loue. Vaine, I talke to the winde, and in ſeeking to prevent the cauſes, I further the effects. I will yet praiſe Fawnia, honour, yea & loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counſell. Doe, Doraſtus, thou canſt not repent: and with that, his Page came into the chamber: whereupon he ceaſed from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, ſo poore Fawnia was diuerſly perplexed. For the next morning getting vp very early, ſhee went to her Sheepe, thinking with hard labours to paſſe away her new conceiued amours, beginning very buſily to driue them to the field and then to ſhift the folds. At laſt, wearied with toyle, ſhe ſate her downe, where (poore ſoule) ſhe was more tyred with fond affection. For loue began to aſſault her, inſomuch that as ſhee ſate vpon the ſide of a Hill, ſhe began to accuſe her owne follie in theſe termes.

O Infortunate Fawnia! And therefore infortunate, becauſe Fawnia, thy Shepheards Hooke ſheweth thy poore eſtate, thy proud deſires an aſpiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No baſtard Hawke muſt ſoare ſo high as the Hobby, no Fowle gaze againſt the Sun, but the Eagle: Actions wrought againſt Nature, reape deſpight: and thoughts aboue Fortune, diſdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a Shepheard, Daughter to poore Portus: if thou reſt content with this, thou art like to ſtand: if thou climb, thou art like to fall. The Herbe Anita growing higher then ſix Inches, becommeth a weede. Nylus flowing more then twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that paſſe meaſure, are cut ſhort by time or Fortune. Suppreſſe then Fawnia thoſe thoughts which thou maiſt ſhame to expreſſe. But ah, Fawnia, Loue is a Lord, who will command by power, and conſtraine by force.

Doraſtus, ah Doraſtus is the man I loue: The worſe is thy hap, and the leſſe cauſe haſt thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at Flyes? Will Cedars ſtoupe at Brambles? Do mighty Princes looke at ſuch homely Trulls? No, no, thinke this, Doraſtus, diſdayne is greater then thy deſire. He is a Prince, reſpecting his honour: Thou a Beggers brat forgetting thy calling. Ceaſe then not onely to ſay, but to think to loue Doraſtus: and diſſemble thy loue, Fawnia. For better it were to die with griefe, then to liue with ſhame. Yet in deſpight of Loue, I will ſigh, to ſee if I can ſigh out Loue. Fawnia, ſomewhat appeaſing her griefes with theſe pithy perſwaſions, began after her wonted manner to walke, about her ſheepe, and to keep them from ſtraying into the Corne, ſuppreſſing her affection with the due conſideration of her baſe eſtate, and with the impoſſibilities of her loue, thinking it were fcenzie (not fancie) to couet that which the very deſtinies deny her to obtaine.

But Doraſtus was more impatient in his paſſions: for loue ſo fiercelie aſſayled him, that neyther Company, nor Muſicke could mitigate his Perplexitie: but did rather farther increaſe his Maladie. Shame would not let him craue counſell in this caſe: nor feare of his Fathers diſpleaſure, reueale it to any ſecret friend: but hee was fayne to make a Secretarie of himſelfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled mind. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull ſuſpence, at laſt ſtealing ſecretly from the Court, without either men or Page, he went to ſee if hee could eſpie Fawnia walking abroad in the Field. But, as one hauing a great deale more skill to retriue the Partridge with the Spaniels, then to Hunt after ſuch a ſtrange prey, he ſought, but was little the better. Which croſſe luck drane him into a great choller, that he began both to accuſe Loue and Fortune. But as hee was ready to retyre, hee ſaw Fawnia ſitting all alone vnder the ſide of an Hill, making a Garland of ſuch homely Flowers as the Fieldes did affoord. This ſight ſo reuiued his ſpirits, that he drew nigh, with more indgement to make a view of her ſingular perfection: which hee found to be ſuch, as in that Countrey attyre ſhe ſtayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he ſtood gazing with piercing lookes on her ſurpaſſing beauty, Fawnia caſt her eye

aſide, and eſpied Doraſtus. Which ſudden ſight made the poore Girle to bluſh, and to dye her chriſtall cheekes with the Vermilion red: which gaue her ſuch a grace, as ſhee ſeemed farre more beautifull: and with that ſhe roſe vp, ſaluting the Prince with ſuch modeſt courteſies, as ſhee wondred how a Country Maid could affoord ſuch courtly behauiour. Doraſtus repaying her courteſie with a ſmiling countenance, began to parle with her on this manner:

FAire maid (quoth he) either your want is great, or a Shepheards life very ſweet, that your delight is in ſuch Country labours. I cannot conceiue what pleaſures you ſhould take, vnleſſe you meane to imitate the Nimphs, being your ſelfe ſo like a Nimph. To put me out of this doubt, ſhew me what is to bee commended in a Shepheards life, and what pleaſures you haue to countervaile theſe drudging labours, Fawnia, with bluſhing face, made him this anſwer:

SIr, what richer ſtate then content? or what ſweeter life then quiet? We Shepheards are not borne to honour, or beholding vnto beauty: the leſſe care we haue to feare fame or Fortune. Wee count our attire braue enough, if warme enough: and our food dainty, if to ſuffice Nature: our greateſt enemy is the Wolfe: our onely care in ſafe keeping our Flocke: in ſtead of courtly Ditties, we ſpend the dayes with countrey Songs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughts, delighting as much to talke of Pan and his Countrey prankes, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toies. Our toile is in ſhifting the folds and looking to the Lambes eaſie labours: our ſitting and telling tales: homely pleaſures: our greateſt wealth, not to couet: our honour, not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Enuy looketh not ſo low as Shepheards: Shepheards gaze not ſo high as ambition: wee are rich, in that we are poore with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cauſe to be proud.

THis witty anſwer of Fawnia, ſo inflamed Doraſtus fancy, that he commended himſelfe for making ſo good a choyce: thinking, if her birth were anſwerable to her wit and Beauty, that

that ſhee were a fitt Mate for the moſt famous Prince in the world. Hee therefore began to lift her more narrowly on this manner:

FAwnia, I ſée thou art content with country labours, becauſe thou knoweſt not Courtly pleaſures: I commend thy wit, and pitty thy want. But wilt thou leaue thy fathers Cottage, and ſerue a Courtly miſtreſſe?

Sir (quoth ſhe) beggers ought not to ſtriue againſt fortune, nor to gaze againſt Honour; leaſt either their fail be greater, or they become blind. I am borne to toile for the Court, not in the Court: my nature vnfit for their nature: better line in meane degree, then in high diſdaine.

Well ſaid, Fawnia (quoth Doraſtus) I geſſe at thy thoughts thou art in loue with ſome Country Shepheard.

No ſir (quoth ſhe) ſhepheards cannot loue, that are ſo ſimple and maids may not loue, that are ſo yong.

May therefore (quoth Doraſtus) maids muſt loue, becauſe they are yong: for Cupid is a child, and Venus, though old, is paynted with freſh colours.

I grant (ſayd ſhe) age may be painted with new ſhadowes, and youth may haue imperfect affections: but, what Art concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in the other. Doraſtus ſéeing Fawnia held him ſo hard, thought it was vaine ſo long to beat about the buſh: therefore hee thought to haue giuen her a freſh charge: but hee was ſo preuented by certayne of his men, who miſſing their Maiſter, came poſting to ſéeke him, ſéeing that he was gone forth all alone: yet before they drew ſo nigh, that they might heare their talke, he vſed theſe ſpéeches:

Why, Fawnia, perhaps I loue thée, and then thou muſt néeds yéeld: For thou knoweſt I can command and conſtraine. Tuſh Sir (quoth ſhee) but not to loue, for conſtrained loue is force, not loue: And know this, Sir, mine honeſty is ſuch, as I had rather dye, then bee a Concubine euen vnto a King: and my birth is ſo baſe, as I am vnfit to be a wife vnto a poore farmor. Why then (quoth he) thou canſt not loue Doraſtus. Yes, ſayd Fawnia, when Doraſtus becomes a Shepheard. And with that, the preſence of his men broke off their Parle, ſo that hee went

with them to the Palace, & left Fawnia ſitting ſtill on the Hill ſide: who ſeeing that the night drew on, ſhifted her Folds, and buſſled her ſelfe about other worke, to driue away ſuch fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this could not preuaile; for the beauty of Doraſtus had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking ſo that ſhe was faine to blame her owne folly in ſtead of his wife:

Ah Fawnia, why doſt thou gaze againſt the Sunne, or catch at the wind? Starres are to bee looked at with the eye, not reached at with the hand: thoughts are to be meaſured by fortunes, not by deſires: falls comes not by ſitting low, but by climing too high. What then, ſhal all feare to fall, becauſe ſome hap to fall? No, lucke commeth by Lot, and Fortune windeth thoſe Threads which the Deſtinies ſpin. Thou art fauoured, Fawnia, of a Prince, and yet thou art ſo fond to reiect deſired fauours. Thou haſt deniall at thy tongues end, and deſire at thy hearts bottome. A Womans fault, to ſpurne at that with her foot, which ſhe greedily catcheth at with her hand. Thou loueſt Doraſtus, Fawnia; and yet ſeemeſt to lowre. Take heed, if he retire, thou wilt repent: for vnleſſe he loue, thou canſt but die. Dye then, Fawnia: for Doraſtus doth but ieſt. The Lyon neuer preyeth on the Mouſe: nor doe faulcons ſtoope to dead Stales. Sit downe then in this ſorrow: ceaſe to loue, and content thy ſelfe, that Doraſtus will vouchſafe to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Heigh hoe: Ah foole, it were ſeemlier for thee to whiſtle as a Sheapheard, then to ſigh as a Louer: and with that ſhe ceaſed from theſe perplexed paſſions, folding her Sheepe, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But ſuch was the vnconſtant ſorrow of Doraſtus, to thinke on the wit and beauty of Fawnia, and to ſee how fond hee was, being a Prince: and how froward ſhe was, being a begger: that he began to loſe his wonted appetite: to lowe pale and wan: in ſtead of mirth, hee fed on Melancholly: for Courtly dances, to vſe colde dumps. Inſomuch, that not only his owne men, but his father, and all the Court began to marueil at his ſudden change, thinking that ſome lingring ſickneſſe had brought him into this ſtate. Wherefore hee cauſed Phyſicians to come. But Doraſtus neyther

would

would let them miniſter, nor ſo much as ſuffer them to ſee his Maine: but remained ſtill ſo oppreſſed with theſe paſſions, as hee feared in himſelfe a further inconuenience. His Honour wiſhed him to ceaſe from ſuch folly: but loue forced him more to follow fancie: yea, and in deſpight of Honour, Loue won the conqueſt, ſo that his hot deſires cauſed him to find new deuices. For he preſently made himſelfe a Shepheards Coate, that he might goe vnknowne, and with leſſe ſuſpition, to prattle with Fawnia: and conueyed it ſecretly into a thicke Grone, hard adioyning to the Palace: whither, finding fit time and opportunity, he went all alone, and putting off his Princely Apparel, got on thoſe Shepheards Robes, and taking a great Hooke in his hand (which hee alſo had gotten) hee went very anciently to find out the Miſtreſſe of his Affection. But as hee went by the way, ſeeing himſelfe clad in ſuch vnſeemely Rags, he began to ſmile at his owne folly, and to reprooue his fondneſſe in theſe termes:

WEll ſaid, Doraſtus, thou kéepeſt a good decorum: baſe Deſires, and homely Attires: thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy Apparell ſuch onely as becomes a Shepheard. A ſtrange change: from a Prince to a Peaſant. What, is it thy wretched fortune, or thy wilfull folly? Is it thy curſed deſtinies, or thy crooked deſires that appoint thee this penance? Ah, Doraſtus, thou canſt but loue, and vnleſſe thou loue, thou art like to periſh for loue. Yet, fond Foole, chuſe Flowres, not Weedes: Diamonds, not Pebbles: Ladies, which may honour thee, not Shepheards, which may diſgrace thee. Venus is painted in Silkes, not in Rags: and Cupid treadeth on Diſdaine when hee reacheth at Dignitie. And yet Doraſtus, ſhame not at thy Sheepheards Weed: the heauenly gods haue ſometime earthly thought: Neptune, became a Ram, Iupiter, a Bull, Apollo, a Sheepheard: they gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuiſing thus with himſelfe, hee drew nigh to the Place where Fawnia was kéeping her Shéepe: who caſting her eye aſide, and ſeeing ſuch a mannerly Shepheard, perfectly limmed and comming with ſo good a pace, ſhee began halfe to forget

Doraſtus, to fauour this pretty ſhepheard, whom ſhe thought ſhe might both loue & obtaine. But as ſhe was in theſe thoughts, ſhe perceiued then it was the yong Prince Doraſtus: wherefore ſhe roſe vp, and reuerently ſaluted him. Doraſtus taking her by the hand, repayed her courteſie with a ſweet kiſſe, and praying her to ſit downe by him, he began thus to lay the battery:

IF thou marueil, Fawnia, at my ſtrange attire, thou wouldſt more muſe at my vnaccuſtomed thoughts: the one diſgraceth but my outward ſhape: the other diſturbeth my inward ſenſes: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what Loue liketh, I cannot miſlike. Fawnia thou haſt promiſed to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no leſſe. I haue fulfilled thy requeſt, and now thou canſt not but grant my deſire. Thou wert content to loue Doraſtus when he ceaſt to be a Prince, & became a Shepheard: and ſée, I haue made a change, and therefore not to miſſe of my choyce.

TRuth, quoth Fawnia: But all that weare Cowles, are not Monkes. Painted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis Grapes were like Grapes, yet ſhadowes: rich Cloathing make not Princes: nor homely attire Beggers: Shepheards are not called ſhepheards, becauſe they were hookes and Bags, but they are borne poore, and liue to keepe Sheepe: ſo this attire hath not made Doraſtus a Shepheard, but to ſeeme like a ſhepheard.

WEll, Fawnia, anſwered Doraſtus, were I a ſhepheard I could not but like thée; being a Prince, I am forced to loue thée. Take heed, Fawnia, bee not proud of Beauties painting; for it is a Flowre that fadeth in the bloſſome. Thoſe which diſdaine in youth, are deſpiſed in age. Beauties ſhadowes are trickt vp with times colours, which being ſet to dry in the Sunne, are ſtained with the Sunne, ſcarce pleaſing the ſight: yet they begin not to be worth the ſight: not much vnlike the Pearbe Ephimeron, which flouriſheth in the morning, and is withered before the Sun-ſetting. If my deſire were

againſt

againſt laſt, thou mightest iuſtly deny me by reaſon: but I loue thée, Fawnia, not to miſuſe thée as a concubine, but to vſe thée as my Wife; I can promiſe no more, and meane to performe no leſſe.

Fawnia hearing this ſolemne proteſtation of Doraſtus, could no longer withſtand the aſſault, but yéelded vp the fort, in theſe friendly termes:

AH, Doraſtus, I ſhame to expreſſe that thou forcest me with thy ſugred ſpeech to confeſſe: my baſe Birth cauſeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggers thoughts ought not to reach as farre as Kings, and yet my deſires reach as high as Princes. I dare not ſay, Doraſtus, I loue thée, becauſe I am a Shepheardeſſe: but the gods know, I haue honored Doraſtus (pardon, if I ſay amiſſe) yea, and loued Doraſtus, with ſuch dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Doraſtus deſire: I yeeld, not ouercome with prayers, but with loue: reſting Doraſtus hand-maid, ready to obey his will, if no preiudice at all to his honour, nor my credit.

DOraſtus hearing this friendlie concluſion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, ſwearing that neither diſtance, time, nor aduerſe Fortune ſhould diminiſh his affection: but that in deſpight of the deſtinies he would remaine faithfull vnto death. Hauing thus plight their troth each to other, ſeeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egiſtus conſent would neuer bée granted to ſo meane a match, Doraſtus determined, as ſoone as time and opportunitie would giue him leaue, to prouide a great Maſſe of Money, and many rich and coſtly Jewels, for the eaſier carriage; and then to tranſport themſelues and their Treaſure into Italy, where they ſhould leade a contented life, vntill ſuch time as eyther hee could bee reconciled to his Father, or elſe by ſucceſſion come to the Kingdome. This deuice was greatly prayſed of Fawnia: for ſhe feared, if the King his father ſhould but heare of the contract, that his fury would be ſuch, as no leſſe then death ſhould ſtand for payment. Shee therefore told him, that deepe dyed danger: that many miſhappes did fall out betweene the

Cup-

Cup and Lip: and that to auoyd danger, it were beſt with as much ſpæde as might bee, to paſſe out of Sycilia, leaſt fortune might preuent their Patience with ſome new deſpight. Doraſtus, whom Loue pricked forward with deſire, promiſed to diſpatch his affaires with as great haſte, as either time or opportunitie would giue him leaue: and ſo reſting vppon this point after many embracings and ſweete kiſſes, they departed. Doraſtus, hauing taken his leaue of his beſt beloued Fawnia, went to the Croue where he had his rich Apparell, and there vncaſing himſelfe as ſecretly as might be, hiding vp his Shepheards attire, till occaſion ſhould ſerue againe to vſe it, hee went to the Palace, ſhewing by his merry countenance, that either the ſtate of his body was amended, or the cauſe of his mind greatly addreſſed. Fawnia, poore Soule, was no leſſe ioyfull, that being a Shepheardeſſe, fortune had fauoured her ſo, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to bee aduanced from the Daughter of a poore Farmer, to bee Wife to a rich King. So that ſhe thought euery houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent danger: not ceaſing ſtill to goe euery day to her Sheepe: not ſo much for the care of the flocke, as for the deſire ſhe had to ſee her Loue and Lord, Doraſtus: who oftentimes, when opportunity would ſerue, repaired thither to feed his fancie with the ſweete content of Fawnia's preſence. And although hee neuer went to viſite her, but in theſe Shepheards Ragges, yet his oft repayre made him not onely ſuſpected, but knowne to diuers of their Neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him ſecretly of the matter, wiſhing him to keepe his Daughter at home, leſt ſhe went ſo long to the field, that ſhe brought him home a young Sonne. For they feared that Fawnia being ſo beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was ſtricken in a dompe at theſe newes, ſo that thanking his Neighbours for their good will, hee hyed him home to his Wife: and calling her aſide, wringing his hands, and ſheading forth teares, hee brake the matter to her in theſe termes:

I Am afraid, Wife, that my Daughter Fawnia hath made her ſelfe to ſure, that ſhe will buy Repentance too deere. I heare

newes

newes, which if they be true, ſome will wiſh they had not proued true. It is told me by my Neighbours, that Doraſtus the Kinges ſonne begins to looke at our Daughter Fawnia: which if it be ſo, I will not giue her a halfe-penny for her honeſtie at the yeares end. I tell thee, wife, now a daies beauty is a great ſtale to trap young men, and faire words & ſweet promiſes are two great Enemies to Maydens honeſty: and thou knoweſt, where poore men intreat, and cannot obtain, there Princes may command, and will obtaine. Though Kings Sonnes dance in Nets they may not be ſeene: yet poore mens faults are ſpied at a little hole. Well, it is a hard caſe where kings lufts are lawes, & that they ſhould bind poore men to that which they themſelues wilfully breake.

Peace, Husband (quoth his wife) take héed what we ſay: Speake no more then you ſhould, leaſt you heare what you would not. Great ſtreames are to be ſtopped by ſleight, not by force: and Princes to be perſwaded by ſubmiſſion, not by rigour. Doe what you can, but no more then you may, leſt in ſauing Fawnia's Maiden-head, you loſe your owne head. Take héed, I ſay, it is ill ieſting with edged tooles, and bad ſporting with Kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled ouer his eares, for but looking into the Lyons den.

Tuſh, wife (quoth he) thou ſpeakeſt like a Fole: If the king ſhould know that Doraſtus had gotten our daughter with child (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings fury would be ſuch, as no doubt we ſhould both loſe our goods & liues: neceſſity therefore hath no Law, & I will preuent this miſchiefe with a new deuice that is come into my head, which ſhall neither offend the King, nor diſpleaſe Doraſtus. I meane to take the chain and the Iewels that I fond with Fawnia, and carry them to the King; letting him then to vnderſtand, how ſhee is none of my daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the water alone in a little boat, wrapped in a rich mantle, wherin was incloſed this Treaſure. By this meanes, I hope the King will take Fawnia into his ſeruice, and we, whatſoeuer chanceth, ſhall be blameleſſe. This deuice pleaſed the good-wife very well, ſo that they determined as ſoone as they might know the King at leaſure, to make him priuy to this caſe.

In the meane time, Doraſtus was not ſlack in his affaires, but applied his matters with ſuch diligence, that he prouided all things fit for their Journey. Treaſure and Jewels he had gotten great ſtore, thinking there was no better friend then money in a ſtrange Countrey. Rich attire he had prouided for Fawnia: and becauſe hee could not bring the matter to paſſe without the helpe and aduice of ſome one, he made an old ſeruant of his called Capnio, who had ſerued him from the childhood, priuie to his affaires: who, ſeeing no perſwaſions could preuayle to diuert him from his ſettled determination, gaue him conſent, and dealt ſo ſecretly in the cauſe, that within ſhort ſpace he had gotten a Ship ready for their paſſage. The Mariners ſeeing a fit gale of Wind for their purpoſe, wiſhed Capnio to make no delaees, leſt if they pretermitted this good Weather, they might ſtay long ere they had ſuch a faire wind. Capnio fearing that his negligence ſhould hinder the Journey, in the night time conueyed the Truncks full Treaſure into the Ship, and by ſecret meanes let Fawnia vnderſtand, that the next Morning they meant to depart. Shee vpon theſe newes ſlept very little that night, but got her vp very early, and went to her ſheepe, looking euery minute when ſhee ſhould ſee Doraſtus: who tarried not long, for feare delay might breed danger; but came as faſt as hee could gallop, and without any great circumſtance tooke Fawnia vp behind him, and rode to the Hauen where the Ship lay, which was three quarters of a mile diſtant from that place. He no ſooner came there, but the Mariners were ready with their Cock-Boat to ſet them aboord: where being couched together in a Cabbin, they paſt away the time in recounting their old loues, till their man Capnio could come.

Porrus, who had heard that this morning the King would go abroad to take the ayre, called in haſte to his wife, to bring him his Holy-day-Hoſe, and his beſt Jacket, that he might goe like an honeſt ſubſtantiall man to tell his Tale. His Wife, a good cleanly Wench, brought him all things fit, and ſponged him vp very handſomely, giuing him a Chayne and the Jewels in a little box: which Porrus for the more ſafety put in his Boſome. Hauing thus his trinkets in a readineſſe, taking his Staffe in his hand, hee bade his Wife kiſſe him for good lucke, and ſo he

he went towards the Palace. But as he was going, Fortune, (who meant to ſhew him a little falſe play) preuented his purpoſe in this wiſe.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as faſt as he could, with a little Coffer vnder his arme to the ſhip, and ſpying Porrus, whom hee knew to bee Fawnias father, going towards the Palace: being a wylie fellow, began to doubt the worſt, and therefore croſt him the way, and asked him whither he was going ſo early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning ſimply, told him that the Kings ſonne Doraſtus dealt hardly with him: for he had but one daughter, who was a little beautifull, and that his Neighbours told him, the yong Prince had allured her to folly: hee went therefore now to complayne to the King how greatly he was abuſed.

Capnio (who ſtraight-way ſmelt the whole matter) began to ſcoth him in his talke, and ſaid, that Doraſtus dealt not like a Prince, to ſpoyle any poore mans Daughter in that ſort: hee therefore would doe the beſt for him he could, becauſe he knew hee was an honeſt man. But (quoth Capnio) you loſe your labour in going to the Palace: for the King meanes this day to take the ayre of the Sea, and to goe aboord of a Ship that lies in the Hauen: I am going before, you ſee, to prouide all things in a readineſſe: and if you will follow my counſell, turne backe with me to the Hauen, where I will ſet you in ſuch a fit place as you may ſpeake to the King at your pleaſure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnioes ſmoth tale, gaue him a thouſand thanks for his friendly aduice, and went with him to the Hauen, making all the way his complaint on Doraſtus; yet concealing ſecretly his chaine and the Iewels. As ſoone as they were come to the Sea-ſide, the Mariners ſeeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boat: who ſtill diſſembling the matter, demanded of Porrus, if he would goe ſee the Ship? who vnwilling, and fearing the worſt, becauſe hee was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuſe, that he could not brooke the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, ſeeing that by faire meanes hee could not get him aboord, commanded the Mariners that by violence they ſhould

carry him into the ſhip, who like ſturdy knaues hoiſted the poore Shepheard on their backes, and bearing him to the Boat, lanched from the Land.

Porrus ſeeing himſelfe ſo cunningly betrayed, durſt not cry out, for hee ſaw it would not preuaile: but began to intreate Capnio and the Mariners to bee good to him, and to pitty his eſtate, hee was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they laughing to ſee the ſhepheard ſo afraid, make as much haſte as they could to ſet him aboord. Porrus was no ſooner in the ſhippe, but he ſaw Doraſtus walking with Fawnia, yet he ſcarce knew her: for ſhee had attired her ſelfe in rich apparell, which ſo increaſed her beauty, that ſhee reſembled rather an Angell, than a creature.

Doraſtus and Fawnia were halfe aſtoniſhed to ſee the Old Shepheard; marueiling greatly what Wind had brought him thither, till Capnio told them all the whole diſcourſe: how Porrus was going to make his complaint to the king, if by policy he had not preuented him; and therefore now ſith hee was aboord, for the auoiding of further danger, it were beſt to carry him into Italy.

Doraſtus praiſed greatly his mans deuice, and allowed of his counſaile: but Fawnia (who ſtill feared Porrus as her Father) began to bluſh for ſhame, that by her meanes he ſhould either incurre danger or diſpleaſure.

The Old Sheapheard hearing this hard ſentence: that hee ſhould on ſuch a ſodaine be carried from his Wife, his Country and kinſfolke, into a forraigne Land amongſt ſtrangers, began with bitter teares to make his complaynt, and on his knées to intreat Doraſtus, that pardoning his vnaduiſed folly, he would giue him leaue to goe home: ſwearing that hee would keepe all things as ſecret as he could wiſh. But theſe proteſtations could not preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Doraſtus very earneſtly: but the Mariners hoiſting their main ſailes, waighed Anchors, haled into the deepe: where we leaue them to the ſuccour of the Wind and Seas, and returne to Egiſtus.

WHo hauing appointed this day to Hunt in one of his Foreſts, called for his ſonne Doraſtus, goe to ſport himſelfe,

himſelfe, becauſe he ſaw that of late he began to lowre: but his men made anſwer, that hee was gone abroad none knew whither, except hée were gone to the Groue to walke all alone, as his cuſtome was euery day.

The King, willing to waken him out of his dumps, ſent one of his men to goe to ſeeke him, but in vaine: for at laſt he returned, but finde him he could not, ſo that the King went himſelfe to goe ſée the ſport: where paſſing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he asked for his ſonne, but he could not bee heard of, which draue the King into a great choller: whereupon moſt of his Noble-men and other Courtiers poſted abroad to ſéeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sicilia: onely they miſſed Capnio his man, which againe made the king ſuſpect that he was not gone farre.

Two or Three dayes being paſſed, and no newes heard of Doraſtus, Egiſtus being to feare that hee was deuoured with ſome wild Beaſts, and vppon that made out a great Troupe of Men to goe ſeeke him: who coaſted thorow all the Country and ſearched in euery dangerous and ſecret Place, vntill at laſt they met with a Fiſher-man, that was ſitting in a little couert, hard by the Sea-ſide, mending his Nets, when Doraſtus and Fawnia tooke ſhipping: who being examined if hee eyther knew or heard where the Kings ſonne was, without any ſecreſſe at all, reuealed the whole matter, how hee was ſayled two dayes paſt, and had in his company his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire Daughter Fawnia. This heauy Newes was preſently carried to the King, who halfe dead for ſorrow, commaunded Porrus Wife to bee ſent for: thee being come to the Palace, after due examination, confeſſed, that her neighbors had oft told her, that the Kinges Sonne was too familiar with Fawnia her daughter: Whereupon her Husband fearing the worſt, about Two dayes paſt, (hearing the king ſhould goe on hunting) roſe early in the Morning, and went to make his complaynt, but ſince hee neither heard of him, nor ſaw him. Egiſtus perceiuing the Womans vnfayned ſimplicity, let her depart without incurring further diſpleaſure, conceiuing ſuch ſecret griefe for his ſonnes wretcheſſe folly, that he had ſo forgotten his honour and Parentage, by ſo baſe a choyce to diſho-

nour his Father, and diſcredit himſelfe, that with very care ſ thought hee fell into a quartane Feuer: which was ſo vnfit for his aged yeeres and complexion, that he became ſo weake, as the Phyſicians would grant him no life.

But his Son Doraſtus little regarded either Father, Countrey or Kingdome, in reſpect of his Lady Fawnia: for Fortune ſmiling on this yong nouice, ſent him ſo lucky a gale of wind, for the ſpace of a day and a night, that the Mariners lay ſ ſlept vpon the hatches: but on the nert morning about the breake of the day, the ayre began to ouer-caſt, the winds to riſe, the ſeas to ſwell: yea preſently there aroſe ſuch a fearfull tempeſt, as the Ship was in danger to be ſwallowed vp in euery Sea; the maine Maſt, with the violence of the wind, was throwne ouerboord, the Sailes were torne, the Tackling rended aſunder, the ſtorme raging ſtill ſo furiouſly, that poore Fawnia was almoſt dead for feare, but that ſhe was greatly comforted with the preſence of Doraſtus. The tempeſt continued three daies, all which time, the Mariners euery minute looked for death, and the aire was ſo darkened with clouds, that the Maſter could not tell by the compaſſe in what coaſt they were. But vpon the fourth day about tenne of the cloche, the Winde began to ceaſe, the Sea to waxe calme, and the Sky to be cleere, and the Mariners deſcried the coaſt of Bohemia, ſhoting off their Ordnance for ioy that they had eſcaped ſuch a fearefull tempeſt.

Doraſtus hearing that they were arriued at ſome Harbour, ſtreetly kiſſed Fawnia, and bade her bee of good cheere. When they told him that the Port belonged to the chiefe Citty of Bohemia where Pandoſto kept his Court, Doraſtus began to bee ſad; knowing that his Father hated no man ſo much as Pandoſto, and that the King himſelfe had ſought ſecretly to betray Egiſtus: this conſidered, he was halfe affrayd to goe on Land, but that Capnio Counſelled him to change his Name and his Countrey, vntill ſuch time as they could get ſome other Barke to tranſport them into Italy. Doraſtus liking this deuice, made his caſe priuy to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifully for their paines, and charging them to ſay, that hee was a Gentleman of Trapolonia, called Meleagrus. The ſhipmen, willing to ſhew what friendſhip they could to Doraſtus, promiſed to be as

ſecret

ſecret as they could, or he might with: and vpon this, they landed in a little Village a mile diſtant from the City: where, after they had reſted a day, thinking to make Prouiſion for their mariage, the ſame of Fawnia's beauty was ſpred throwout all the City, ſo that it came to the eare of Pandoſto: who then being about the age of fiftie, had notwithſtanding yeung and freſh affections: ſo that he deſired greatly to ſee Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to paſſe, hearing they had but one man, and how they reſted at a very homely houſe, hee cauſed them to bee apprehended and Spies, and ſent Twelue of his Guard to take them, who being come to their Lodging, told them the Kings meſſage. Doraſtus no whit diſmayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to keepe the Stuffe) who being admitted to the Kinges preſence, Doraſtus and Fawnia with humble obeyſance ſaluted his Maieſtie.

Pandoſto amazed at the ſingular perfection of Fawnia, ſtood halfe aſtoniſhed, viewing her beauty, ſo that hee almoſt forgot himſelfe what he had to doe: at laſt, with ſterne countenance he demanded their names, and of what countrey they were, and what cauſed them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Doraſtus) know that my name is Meleagrus, a knight, borne and brought vp in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom I meane to take to my Wife, is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I haue now brought her. The cauſe I haue ſo ſmall a traine with me, is, for that her friends vnwilling to conſent, I entended ſecretly to conuey her into Trapolonia, whither I was ſayling, and by diſtreſſe of Weather: I was driuen into theſe Coaſts. Thus haue you heard my name, my Country, and the cauſe of my voyage. Pandoſto ſtarting from his Seat, as one incholler, made this rough reply:

MEleagrus, I feare, this ſmoth tale hath but ſmall truth, and that thou couereſt a foule Skin with faire paintings. No doubt, this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of higher degree, more meet for a mighty Prince, then for a ſimple knight: and thou like a periured Traytor haſt bereft her of her parents to their preſent griefe, and her enſuing ſorrow: Will therefore

I heare more of her Parentage, and of her calling, I will ſtay you both heere in Bohemia.

Doraſtus, in whom reſted nothing but Kingly valour, was not able to ſuffer the reproaches of Pandoſto, but that he made him this anſwer:

IT is not meet for a King, without due proofe, to appeach any man of ill behauiour, nor vpon ſuſpition to inferre beliefe; Strangers ought to be entertained with courteſie, not to be entreated with cruelty: leſt being forced by want to put vp iniuries, the Gods reuenge their cauſe with rigour.

Pandoſto hearing Doraſtus vtter theſe words, commanded that he ſhould ſtraight be committed to priſon, vntill ſuch time as they heard further of his pleaſure: but as for Fawnia, hee charged that ſhe ſhould be entertained in the Court, with ſuch courteſie as belonged to a ſtranger and her calling: the reſt of the ſhipmen put in the Dungeon.

Hauing thus ſo hardly handled the ſuppoſed Trapolonians, Pandoſto, contrary to his aged yeares, began to bee ſomewhat tickled with the beauty of Fawnia, inſomuch that he could take no reſt, but caſt into his old head a thouſand new deuices: at laſt he fell into theſe thoughts:

HOw art thou beſtred (Pandoſto) with freſh affections, and vnlaſt fancies, wiſhing to poſſeſſe with an vnwilling mind, and a hot deſire troubled with a cold diſdaine? Shall thy mind yeeld in age, to that thou haſt reſiſted in youth? Peace Pandoſto blab not out that which thou maiſt be aſhamed to reueale to thy ſelfe. Ah, Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine Honour (fond fole) to name her that is thy Captiue, and another mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand, which me hart would faine refuſe: playing like the bird Ibis in Ægypt, which hateth Serpents, yet feedeth on their Egges.

Muſh, hot deſires turne oftentimes to cold diſdaine: Loue is brittle, where appetite, not reaſon beares the ſway: Kings thoughts ought not to climbe ſo high as the Heauens, but to looke no lower then honour: better it is to pecke at the Starres with the young Eagles, then to prey on Dead Carcaſes with the

the Vulture: it is more honourable for Pandoſto to dy by concealing Loue, then to vnioy ſuch vnſit Loue. Doth Pandoſto then Loue? Yea, Whom? A mayd vnknowne, yea, and perhaps immodeſt, ſtraggled out of her owne Countrey: beautifull, but not therefore chaſte: comely in body, but perhaps crooked in mind. Ceaſe then, Pandoſto, to looke at Fawnia, much leſſe to loue her: be not ouertaken with a Womans beauty, whoſe eies are framed by Art to enamour: whoſe heart is framed by Nature to inchant: whoſe falſe teares know their due time, and whoſe ſweet words pierce deeper then ſharpe Swords. Here ceaſt Pandoſto from his talke, but not from his Loue: for although he ſought by reaſon and wiſdome to ſuppreſſe this franticke affection, yet he could take no reſt, the beauty of Fawnia had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in his heart. But one a day walking abroad into a Parke, which was hard adioyning to his Houſe, he ſent by one of his ſeruants for Fawnia, vnto whome he vttered theſe words:

FAwnia, I commend thy Beauty and wit, and now pitty thy diſtreſſe and want: but if thou wilt forſake Sir Meleagrus (whoſe pouerty, though a knight, is not able to maintayne an eſtate anſwerable to thy Beauty) and yeld thy conſent to Pandoſto, I will both increaſe thee with dignities and riches. No, Sir, anſwered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a knight that hath wonne me by loue, and none but he ſhall weare mee: his ſtriſter miſchance ſhall not diminiſh my affection, but rather increaſe my good will: thinke not, though your Grace hath impriſoned him without cauſe, that feare will make me yeld my conſent: I had rather be Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plenty, and be Pandoſto's Concubine.

Pandoſto, hearing the aſſured anſwer of Fawnia, would notwithſtanding proſecute his ſuit to the vttermoſt: ſeeking with faire words and great promiſes to ſcale the fort of her chaſtity: ſwearing that if ſhee would graunt to his deſire, Meleagrus ſhould not only be ſet at at liberty, but honoured in the Court amongſt his Nobles. But theſe alluring baits could not entice her mind from the loue of her new-betrothed Mate Meleagrus: which Pandoſto ſeeing, he left her alone for that time to conſider

more of the demand. Fawnia being alone by her selfe, began to fall into these solitary meditations:

Ah vnfortunate Fawnia, thou seest, to desire above fortune is to striue above gods and fortune. Who gazeth at the Sun, weakneth his sight: They which stare at the Skie, fall oft into deep pits: hadst thou rested content to haue bene a Shepheard, thou needest not to haue feared mischance: better had it bin for thee, by sitting low, to haue had quiet, then by climing high, to haue falne into misery. But alas, I feare not mine own danger but Dorastus displeasure. Ah sweet Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a prisoner, by too much loue, procuring thine own losse; hadst thou not loued Fawnia, thou hadst bin fortunate. Shall I then bee false to him that hath forsaken kingdomes for my cause? No; would my death might deliuer him, so mine honor might be preserued. With that, fetching a deep sigh, she ceased from her complaints, and went againe to the Palace, enioyning a liberty without content, and proffered pleasure with smal ioy. But poore Dorastus lay all this while in close Prison, being pinched with a hard restraint, & pained with the burthen of cold and heauy Irons, sorrowing sometimes that his fond affection had procured him this mishappe, that by the disobedience of his Parents, he had wrought his owne despight: another while cursing the gods and fortune, that they would crosse him with sinister chance, vttering at last his passions, with these words:

Ah vnfortunate wretch, borne to misfhap, now thy folly hath his desert: art thou not worthy for thy base mind, to haue bad fortune? Could the destinies fauour thee, which hast forgot thine honour and dignity? Will not the gods plague him with despight, that paineth his Father with disobedience? Oh gods if any fauor or iustice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia, and shrowde her from the Tyrannies of wretched Pandosto: but let my death free her from misfhap, and then welcome death. Dorastus pained with these heauy passions, sorrowed and sighed, but in vaine; for which he vsed more patience.

But againe to Pandosto, who broyling in the heat of vnlawfull Lust, could take no rest, but still felt his mind disquieted

with

with his new loue; ſo that his Nobles and Subiects marueled greatly at his ſodaine alteration, not being able to coniecture the cauſe of this his continued care. Pandoſto thinking euery houre a yeare, till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, ſent for her ſecretly into his chamber: whither Fawnia though vnwillingly comming, Pandoſto entertain'd her very courteouſly, vſing theſe familiar ſpeaches, which Fawnia anſwered as ſhortly in this wiſe:

Pandoſto.

Fawnia are you become leſſe wilfull, and more wiſe, to preferre the loue of a king, before the liking of a poore knight? I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to bee fauoured of a king, than of a Subiect.

Fawnia.

Pandoſto, the Body is ſubiect to victories, but the minde not to bee ſubdued with Conqueſt: honeſty is to be preferred before Honour, and a Dram of faith weigheth downe a Tun of gold, I haue promiſed Meleagrus my loue, and will performe no leſſe.

Pandoſto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not ſo vnwiſe in thy choyce, as to refuſe the offer of a King, nor ſo vngratfull as to deſpiſe a good turne: thou art now in that place where I may command, and yet thou ſeeſt I intreat: my power is ſuch, that I may compell by force, and yet I ſue by prayers. Yeeld, Fawnia, thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue: Meleagrus ſhall bee ſet free, thy Countrey-men diſcharged, and thou both loued and honored.

Fawnia.

I ſee Pandoſto, where luſt ruleth, it is a miſerable thing to bee a Virgin: but know this, that I will alwaies prefer fame before life, and rather chooſe death then diſhonour.

Pandoſto ſeeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus, and a reſolution without feare to hate him, fleeing away from her in a rage, hee ſware, that if in ſhort time ſhe would not be won by reaſon, he would forget all courteſie, and compell her to grant by rigour. But theſe threatning words no whit diſmayd Fawnia: but that ſhee ſtill both

deſpited and deſpiſed pandoſto. While thus theſe two Louers ſtreue, the one to winne Loue, the other to liue in hate: Egiſtus heard certayne newes by Merchants of Bohemia, that his ſonne Doraſtus was impriſoned by pandoſto: which made him feare greatly, that his Sonne ſhould be but hardly intreated: yet conſidering that Bellaria and hee were cleered by the Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith pandoſto had vniuſtly charged them: hee thought beſt to ſend with all ſpeed to pandoſto, that hee ſhould ſet free his Sonne Doraſtus, and put to death Fawnia and her Father Porrus. Finding this, by the aduice of counſell, the ſpeediſt remedy to releaſe his Sonne he cauſed preſently two of his Ships to be rigged: and thoroughly furniſhed with Prouiſion of men and Victuals, and ſent diuers of his Nobles Embaſadors into Bohemia: who willing to obey the King, and receiue their young Prince, made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much ſpeed as might bee, ſayled towards Bohemia; the Winde and Seas fauoured them greatly, which made them hope of ſome good hap: for within three dayes they were Landed: which pandoſto no ſooner heard of their arriuall, but hee in perſon went to meet them, intreating them with ſuch ſumptuous and ſumptiuous courteſie, that they might well perceiue how ſorry he was for the former iniuries hee had offered to their king, and how willing (if it might bee) to make amends. As pandoſto made report to them, how one Melcagrus a knight of Trapolonia, was lately arriued with a Lady called Fawnia in his Land, comming very ſuſpitiouſly: accompanied onely with one Seruant, and an old Shepheard: the Embaſadours perceiued by the halfe, what the whole Tale meant, and began to coniecture that was Doraſtus, who for feare to be knowne, had changed his name. But diſſembling the matter, they ſhortly arriued at ỳ court, where after they had been very ſolemnely and ſumptuouſly feaſted, the Noblemen of Sicilia being gathered together, they made report of their Embaſſage: where they certified pandoſto, that Melcagrus was Sonne and Heyre to the king Egiſtus, and that his name was Doraſtus: and how contrary to the kings mind, hee had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marry her, being but Daughter to that poore Shepheard Porrus

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Whereupon the kings requeſt was, that Capnio, Fawnia and Porrus might bee murthered and put to death, and that his ſon Doraſtus might bee ſent home in ſafety. Pandoſto hauing attentiuely and with great marualle heard their Embaſſage, willing to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus, & to ſhew him how greatly he eſtéemed his fauour, although Loue and fancy forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in deſpite of loue he determined to execute Egiſtus will without mercy, and therefore he preſently ſent for Doraſtus out of priſon: who marueling at his vnlooked for courteſie, found at his comming to the kings preſence, that which he leaſt doubted of, his Fathers Embaſſadours: who no ſooner ſaw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him, and pandoſto embracing Doraſtus, ſet him by him very louingly in a chaire of eſtate. Doraſtus, aſhamed that his folly was bewrayed, ſate a long time as one in a maze, till Pandoſto told him the ſum of his Fathers Embaſſage: which he had no ſooner heard, but he was touched to the quick for the cruel ſentence that was pronounced againſt Fawnia: but neither could his ſorrow nor perſwaſions preuayle: for Pandoſto commanded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, ſhould bee brought to his preſence: who were no ſooner come, but pandoſto, hauing his former loue turned into diſdainfull hate, began to rage againſt Fawnia in theſe termes:

THou diſdainefull vaſſall, thou curriſh kite, aſſigned by the Deſtinies to baſe Fortune, and yet with an aſpiring mind gazing after honour: how durſt thou preſume, being a begger, to match with a Prince? By thy alluring lookes to inchaunt the Sonne of a king, to leaue his owne countrey, to fulfill thy diſordinate luſts? O deſpightfull mind! A proud heart in a begger, is not vnlike a great fire in a ſmall cottage, which warmeth not the houſe, but burneth it: aſſure thy ſelfe thou ſhalt dye: and thou old doting fole, whoſe folly hath beene ſuch, as to ſuffer thy Daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: looke for no other meede, but the like puniſhment. But Capnio thou which haſt betraied the king, and haſt conſented to the vnlawfull luſt of thy Lord and Maiſter, I know not how inſtly I may plague thee: Death is too eaſie a puniſhment for thy falſhood.

and to line, (if not in extreame miſery) were not to ſhew thée equitie. I therefore award, that thou ſhalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou dyeſt, grind in a Mill like a brute beaſt. The feare of death brought a ſorrowfull ſilence vppon Fawnia, and Capnio: but Porrus ſeeing no hope of life, burſt forth in theſe ſpeeches:

PAndoſto, & ye Noble Embaſſadours of Sicilia, ſeeing without cauſe I am condemned to die, I am yet glad I haue opportunity to diſburden my conſcience before my death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true whereas I am accuſed that I haue béen a ſupporter of Fawnia's pride and ſhe diſdained as a vile begger; ſo it is, that I am neither father vnto her, nor ſhe daughter vnto me.

For it ſo happened, that I being a poore ſhepheard in Sicilia, liuing by keeping other mens flocks, one of my ſheepe ſtraying downe to the Sea-ſide, as I went to ſeeke her, I ſaw a little Boat driuen vppon the ſhore, wherein I found a Babe of fiue daies old, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the necke this Chaine: I pittying the Child, and deſirous of the Treaſure, caried it home to my wife, who with great care nurſed it vp, and ſet it to keepe Sheepe. Here is the Chaine and Jewels, & this Fawnia is the child whom I found in the Boat: what ſhe is, or of what parentage, I know not: but this I am aſſured, that ſhe is none of mine.

Pandoſto would ſcarce ſuffer him to tell out his tale, but that he required the time of the yeere, the manner of the Boat, and other circumſtances: which when he found agreeing to his count, ſodainely he leapt from his ſeat, and kiſſed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheekes with his teares, and crying, My daughter Fawnia, ah my ſweet Fawnia, I am thy father, Fawnia! This ſudden paſſion of the king draue them al into a maze, eſpecially Fawnia & Doraſtus. But when the king had breathed himſelfe a while in this new ioy, he rehearſed before the Embaſſadours the whole matter, and how he had entreated his Wife Bellaria for Jealouſie, and that this was the Child whom he ſent to float in the Seas.

Fawnia was not more ioyfull that ſhee had found ſuch a

Father

Father, then Doraſtus was glad he ſhould get ſuch a wife. The Embaſſadors reioyced that their young Prince had made ſuch a choyce: That thoſe kingdomes which through enmitie had long time bene diſſeuered, ſhould now through perpetuall amity be vnited and reconciled. The Citizens & Subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe her Daughter which was ſuppoſed dead, ioyfull that there was an heire apparant to the kingdome) made Bon-fires and ſhewes throughout all the Cittie. The Courtiers and knights appointed Iuſts and Turneyes, to ſignifie their willing minds in gratifying the kings hap.

Eighténe dayes being paſt in theſe Princely ſports, pandoſto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a knight: which done, prouiding a ſufficient Nauy to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Doraſtus and Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embaſſadours, he ſayled towards Sicilia, where he was moſt princely entertained by Egiſtus: who hearing this Comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his Sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two young Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no ſooner ended, but pandoſto (calling to mind how he firſt betrayed his friend Egiſtus, how his iealouſie was the cauſe of Bellaria's death, that contrary to the Law of Nature, he had luſted after his own daughter) moued with theſe deſperate thoughts, fell in a melancholy fit, and to cloſe vp the Comedy with a tragicall ſtratagems, he ſlew himſelfe: whoſe death being many daies bewailed of Fawnia, Doraſtus, & his deare friend Egiſtus, Doraſtus taking leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where after it was ſuptuouſly intombed, Doraſtus ended his daies in contended quiet.

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FINIS.